

Hindi in official work and all out efforts are made to achieve the targets spelt out in the annual programme issued by the Department of Official Language. These efforts will continue during the Golden Jubilee Celebration year also.

(d) and (e) There are two Hindi Salahakar Samitis in the Ministry of Industry, one for the Departments of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Industrial Development and Small Scale Industries and Agro & Rural Industries and another one for the Departments of Heavy Industry & Public Enterprises. The process of reconstitution of the Hindi Salahakar Samiti of the Departments of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Industrial Development & Small Scale Industries and Agro & Rural Industries is in its final stage and is likely to be completed shortly. The Hindi Salahakar Samiti of the Departments of Heavy Industry & Public Enterprises as already been constituted on 02.03.1995 for a period of three year.

[English]

Production of Coffee

5496. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the traditional coffee growing States and the performance of those States in Coffee production during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have started coffee plantation in some non-traditional States on experimental basis;

(c) if so, the achievements have made in this regard;

(d) whether the Government have made any programme for increasing coffee production during Ninth Plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The production of Coffee in the traditional coffee growing States in the last three years is given below:

	(in Tonnes)		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Karnataka	1,23,050	1,58,900	1,41,000
Kerala	39,000	45,000	47,300
Tamil Nadu	15,870	17,500	15,700

(b) and (c) Coffee cultivation in non-traditional states has been taken up since 1976 when a target of 72,000 ha. of Coffee plantation was envisaged in all the non-traditional states. Since then, a total of 20,946 ha. has been brought under coffee cultivation in these states. Coffee Board has continued coffee cultivation in the non-traditional states through its various research and extension programmes. During the year 1996-97, a total of 20,752 tonnes of coffee has been produced in the non-traditional states.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir.

Consolidation and expansion of area under coffee is envisaged in non-traditional states apart from increasing the production and productivity in the traditional areas, so as to achieve the targeted production of 3 lakh tonnes by the turn of the century. Coffee Board has proposed a comprehensive programme in the Ninth Plan to support consolidation and expansion of coffee area in North-Eastern region and other non-traditional areas which includes providing subsidy for inputs, plant materials and marketing support. Similarly to increase the productivity level in small grower sector in traditional area, Board has proposed providing incentive/grants to increase the productivity and support quality upgradation.

[Translation]

Cess Collected from Tea Producers

5497. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have collected the cess from the producers of tea;

(b) if so, the rate at which this cess is being collected;

(c) the total revenue collected by the Government from the producers of tea during each of the last three years upto March 31, 1997;

(d) whether the Government have allocated any amount from the Cess Fund for increasing the production of tea during the above period;

(e) if so, the details thereof, year-wise; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) Under Section 25 of the Tea Act, 1953 cess is levied and collected on all teas produced in India. At present, the rate of cess on tea is 30 paise per kg except in case of teas produced in some tea growing areas of Darjeeling where the rate of cess is 12 paise per kg.

Amount of cess collected from tea during the last 3 years has been as under:

Year	Amount of cess collected from Tea (Rs. Crores)
1994-95	10.56
1995-96	10.34
1996-97	11.65 (Budgeted)

Source: Receipt budget: Govt. of India.

(d) to (f) Proceeds of the cess on tea are utilised to meet expenditure towards research and development activities, labour welfare, foreign promotion of tea, administrative expenditure of the Tea Board etc. Expenditure incurred on research and development activities out of cess proceeds during the years 1993-94 to 1995-96 has been as under:

Year	Expenditure on R & D activities from cess budget of Tea Board (Rs. in lakhs)
1993-94	250.40
1994-95	443.45
1995-96	540.96

Audited figures of the expenditure for the year 1996-97 are not available.

[English]

Burn Standard Co. Ltd.

5498. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the reason for delay in considering the feasibility Report of Burn Standard Co. Ltd. which has since been referred to BIFR;

(b) whether the Burn Standard Co. Ltd. is facing shortage of fund;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are considering to provide Burn Standard Co. Ltd. with plan non-plan fund, pending consideration of the feasibility Report by BIFR; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Burn Standard & Company Ltd. is a multi-product Company with eleven units spread over four States. The finalisation of the revival package required thorough examination of the economic revivability of each unit and this process involved more time.

(b) to (e) Yes, Sir. Burn Standard Company Ltd. (BSCL) is facing problems of shortage of funds. It has seven sick Refractory units which have been incurring losses since inception. The abrupt reduction in wagon orders in 1993-94 and 1994-95 has also adversely affected its financial performance. There are strains on working capital management. However, the Companies bank account is regular and it gets advance from Railways. Government has provided counter guarantee of Rs. 49.50 crore to bank for providing working capital requirement. With improvement in wagon orders from the Railways, BSCL's financial position is improving.

Release of Plan/Non plan funds required under the revival scheme would depend on the final sanction of revival scheme.

[Translation]

Supply of Hank Yarn to Uttar Pradesh

5499. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the demand of hank yarn made by Uttar Pradesh during the last three years and the hank yarn supplied by National Handloom Development Corporation;

(b) whether the weavers of the State have to face difficulties due to irregular supply of hank yarn; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to ensure supply of hank yarn to weavers keeping in view their demand?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): (a) The data regarding State-wise demand of hank yarn is not being maintained. The National Handloom Development Corporation supplies hank yarn under Mill Gate Price Scheme and under Hank Yarn Price Subsidy Scheme which was in operation during 1994-95 and 1995-96. In addition, NHDC also supplies yarn as a part of their general operation. The NHDC has supplied following quantities of yarn to agencies of Uttar Pradesh during last three years:

Year	Quantity (in lakh Kgs)
1994-95	5.76
1995-96	8.96
1996-97	13.96

(b) No difficulty/grievance was reported from the State about the irregular supply/non availability of hank yarn.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Irregularities/corruption in Coal Mines

5500. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents pertaining to irregularities, corruption and theft of coal at coal mines are increasing; and

(b) if so, the scheme formulated by the Government to check them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Trade with South East Asian Countries

5501. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: